

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 SAJ-01

NIC-01 SAM-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /130 W

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O 030940Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8343

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, OTRA (LE VAN DONG), VS, JA, MX

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE SENATOR TO VISIT JAPAN, MEXICO, U.S.

1. SENATOR LE VAN DON, CHAIRMAN VIETNAMESE CHAPTER OF INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU), LEFT SAIGON SEPTEMBER 2 ON TRIP TO JAPAN, MEXICO AND THE U.S. PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO SOLIDIFY SUPPORT FOR GVN IN UPCOMING IPU SESSION WHERE GVN'S CREDENTIALS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CHALLENGED BY COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS IN BEHALF OF HANOI'S SOUTHERN APPENDAGE, THE SO-CALLED "PRG". DONG WILL BE TRAVELING WITH LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY NGUYEN VAN THUAN.

2. UPON DEPARTURE DONG WAS STILL UNCERTAIN REGARDING HIS EXACT ITINERARY. HE EXPECTED TO STAY IN JAPAN TWO OR THREE DAYS BEFORE FLYING TO SAN FRANCISCO FOR A BRIEF REST. TOWARD END OF THIS WEEK HE WOULD ARRIVE IN MEXICO WHERE HE INTENDS TO MEET WITH SENATOR CARILLO, WHOM DONG DESCRIBES AS AN OLD FRIEND. DONG WILL PROCEED TO WASHINGTON NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 9 AND HOPES TO TALK WITH REPRESENTATIVE DERWINSKI, CHIEF USDEL TO IPU. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO VIET-NAM VIA EUROPE.

3. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES: LE VAN DONG IS A PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS
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WHO HAS SERVED IN THE SENATE SINCE 1967. BORN IN 1921, DONG HAS

BEEN ACTIVE IN VIETNAMESE POLITICS SINCE THE MID-40'S. HE IS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMOCRACY PARTY AND PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAMESE IPU CHAPTER. DONG SPEAKS FAIRLY FLUENT ENGLISH AND BETTER FRENCH. DEPUTY NGUYEN VAN THUAN IS A 35-YEAR-OLD MEDICAL DOCTOR WHO HAS SERVED IN THE LOWER HOUSE SINCE 1971. HE IS STAUNCHLY PRO-GOVERNMENT AND HAS SERVED ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE IPU CHAPTER SINCE 1972. THUAN SPEAKS FRENCH AND SOME ENGLISH. BOTH DONG AND THUAN ATTENDED THE IPU MEETING IN BUCHAREST LAST APRIL.

4. FOR MEXICO: DONG HAS ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE DURING HIS VISIT IN MEXICO. PLEASE EXTEND NORMAL COURTESIES. PLEASE FORWARD TO TOKYO AND DEPARTMENT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF PERSON WHOM DONG CAN USE AS CONTACT POINT.

5. FOR TOKYO: DONG SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY. PLEASE PROVIDE HIM WITH INFORMATION FORWARDED BY EMBASSY MEXICO.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: IN EVENT DONG DEPARTS JAPAN BEFORE EMBASSY MEXICO'S RESPONSE REACHES TOKYO, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT RELAYING INFORMATION TO DONG VIA GVN CONSULATE GENERAL SAN FRANCISCO. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO ALERT REPRESENTATIVE DERWINSKI'S OFFICE TO DONG VISIT. THE SENATOR HAS ALSO ASKED DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETING FOR HIM WITH GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS OFFICIALS. HE WILL CONTACT EA/VN (WENZEL OR PETERS) UPON ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON11512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740243-0356
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740979/aaaacoum.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE SENATOR TO VISIT JAPAN, MEXICO, U.S.
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, OTRA, VS, JA, MX, UN, (LE VAN DONG)
To: STATE TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005